(c) whether Government are also considering allowing investors to develop Real estate along Highways?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) The proposal is under consideration.

(b) National Highways Act, 1956 has already been amended for this purpose.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission on Indian Prison Act

1075. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has urged Government to make changes in the provisions of the Indian Prison Act, 1894;

(b) if so, whether a Bill has been prepared in this regard and submitted to the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the reactions of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) The Government and National Human Rights Commission are interacting on the possible content of a Bill to cover changes on various aspects of the prison administration.

Violence in Bihar During Lok Sabha Elections

1076. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATO SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed/injured during the recent Lok Sabha elections held in the State of Bihar; and

(b) whether Government have taken the matter seriously; and if so, the action taken in this regard and the number of persons arrested during these elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Crisis in Jute Industry

1077. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the jute industry in the country has fallen in deep crisis in recent days; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Out of 73 jute mills in the country 17 mills were lying closed as on 15.7.96. Among the various factors contributing to the closure or sickness in jute units are lack of modernisation, imbalance in cost price structure, inadequate availability and high price of row jute, stiff competition from cheaper synthetic substitutes in packaging sector etc.

सशस्त्र बल (विशेष शक्तियां) अधिनियम

1078. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी. सोलंकी: क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्तमान में सशस्त्र बल (विशेष शक्तियां) अधिनियम किन-किन राज्यों में लागू है;

(ख) राज्य-वार यह अधिनियम किस तारीख से पहली बार प्रभावी हुआ था;

(ग) इसे बरकरार रखने के क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) क्या इस अधिनियम की कभी समीक्षा की गई है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो राज्य-वार अंतिम बार इसकी समीक्षा कब गई है/थी?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहम्मद मकबूल डार): (क) सशस्त्र बल (विशेष शक्तियां) अधिनियम, इस समय निम्नलिखित राज्यों में प्रख्यापित है:-

1. असम	2. नागालैण्ड
3. मणिपुर	4. मिजोरम
5. मेघालय	6. अरुणाचल प्रदेश
7. त्रिपुरा	8. पंजाब
9. सं.शा. क्षेत्र चण्डीगढ़	10. जम्मू व कश्मीर